

No. 22 "B"

(164.1/2)

CONFIDENTIAL

5th March, 1953.

Sir,

I have [] to enclose copies, in translation, of two Ukases of the Presidium of the National Assembly publishing a Law for the Organisation of the Courts and a Law for the Prosecutor's Office in the People's Republic of Bulgaria. Together with the Penal Code and the Codes of Criminal and Civil Procedure (cf. my despatches Nos. 31 of the 20th March, 1952, and 18 "B" of the 26th February, 1953) and the Ukase for the Legal Profession (cf. Mr. Murray's despatch No. 92 of the 10th July, 1952) the present documents give a fairly comprehensive picture of the state of Bulgarian law and the agencies through which it is administered.

2. The Law for the Organisation of the Courts contains, as is usual in Bulgarian legislation of this kind, a mixture of high and unobjectionable principles on the one hand and of communist dogma on the other. The latter, even if one were unaware of the perverted manner in which the law is applied, provide adequate justification for the setting aside of the safeguards which the former enshrines. Thus, Article 4 establishes the principle of equality before the law, but the high-flown definition of the objects of justice embodied in Article 1 leave no doubt that any "anti-social" convictions or connections which the prosecution alleges against the accused will be allowed to overrule that principle out of existence. Other typical provisions, the practical application of which has become only too familiar, are that "judges and assessors are independent and obey only the law", that judgments are pronounced in the name of the people (Article 6) and that judicial proceedings may be designed to have an "educational influence" (Article 7).

3. The organisation of the various courts calls for little comment: they are neatly arranged in a pyramid, as are all institutions in this country, based on the municipal or district unit (the People's Court) and building up through the provincial group to the Supreme Court at the apex. The latter acts both as a court of first instance, presumably in particularly important cases, and as the final court of appeal, and in addition gives guidance to the inferior courts on points of law and procedure (Articles 17 and 18). In addition to the normal courts, there are military courts for members of the armed forces and the civilian staff of the Ministry of Defence and a central Transport Court, the jurisdiction of which is defined in Point 2 of the "Temporary Provisions".

4. The Law for the Organisation of the Courts makes it abundantly clear that a totalitarian régime cannot contemplate any organisation that is not entirely subordinate to the central power (i.e., the Communist Party); the separation of the powers of the executive, the legislature and the judiciary form no part of the communist creed. At every level there is the closest linking of the three branches, which is typified in the manner of election and recall of judges and judicial assessors. The grounds on which a judge may be recalled are defined (Article 47) in the widest and vaguest terms and include "damage to the prestige of justice or to the public interest". Interference by the Minister of Justice, sanctioned by Article 57, completes the pattern of central political control of the administration of justice.

5. The Prosecutor's Office of the People's Republic, which is regulated by the other Law of which I enclose a translation, not only carries out investigations into alleged criminal acts and initiates proceedings against

/offenders

offenders, but also acts as adviser to Government departments on the constitutional propriety of orders and regulations. It may also request the Supreme Court to revise judgments of inferior courts which it holds to be unjust, and may take part in civil cases in defence of state interests. The subordinate prosecutors are responsible to the Chief Prosecutor alone (Article 5) so that the prosecution enjoys, in theory at least, more independence than the bench, but ultimate control is, of course, exercised by the Government through the National Assembly which appoints the Chief Prosecutor and reviews his activities annually (Article 4). Thus constituted, the Prosecutor's Office is well fitted to play its role of bringing "enemies of the people" to justice.

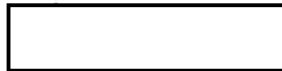
I have the honor to be,

With the highest respect,

Sr,

Your obedient servant,

25X11A



DECRETA of the President
of the National Assembly
7th November 1952 No. 92.

LAW FOR THE ORGANIZATION OF THE COURTS

CHAPTER I

GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. Justice in the People's Republic of Bulgaria has the task of defending against violation the state and social people's democratic order, socialist economic system and socialist property, established by the Constitution. It guarantees political, labour and other personal and material rights, the legal interests of citizens and the rights and legal interests of state institutions and enterprises and of other public organizations.

2. The law is administered by the people's courts, the provincial courts, the Supreme Court of the People's Republic and the special courts. The military courts and the transport court are special courts.

3. By their activity the courts ensure the accurate and equal observance of the laws by all institutions, enterprises, public organizations, officials and citizens, and bring up the citizens in a spirit of loyalty to the motherland, labour discipline, conscientious observance of the laws and of the rules of the socialist community.

4. The courts apply the laws accurately and equally to all citizens, irrespective of sex, nationality, race, creed, origin, citizenship, social and material position and education.
Every citizen has the right of defence in the courts.

5. Cases are heard in all courts with the participation of judicial assessors, except in cases expressly mentioned in the law.

6. The judges and judicial assessors are elected.
They are independent and obey only the law. They pronounce their verdicts and decisions in the name of the people.

7. The courts hear cases in open sessions except when it is laid down that they should be heard in camera.
Court sessions are conducted in the Bulgarian language. If a participant in the case does not know Bulgarian, an interpreter is appointed.
Court sessions take place in the premises of the court except when, with a view to educational influence or correct collection of evidence, it is necessary to hear certain cases elsewhere.

CHAPTER II

THE COURTS

8. There are one or several people's courts in each district and in each area in towns divided into areas. Their seats and areas are determined by order of the Minister of Justice.

In towns where the People's Councils are directly subordinate to a provincial People's Council, there may be one people's court both for the town and the district.

9. There is one provincial court in each province.
There is one provincial court with its seat in the town of Sofia for both the town and the province of Sofia.

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Departments of a provincial court may be opened outside the seat of the provincial court.

The provincial courts have presidents, vice-presidents and members.

10. The seat of the Supreme Court is in Sofia. It has a president, vice-presidents, presidents of departments and members.

The Supreme Court consists of three colleges: penal, civil and military. The colleges have departments.

11. Military courts for military personnel and for the civilian staff of the Ministry of National Defence are set up in each province and at military units. Their seats are determined by order of the Minister of Justice in conjunction with the Minister of National Defence.

Military courts have a president and members.

12. There is one military court for the whole country for the military personnel and the civilian staff of the Ministry of the Interior. It has its seat in Sofia. It has a president, vice-presidents and members.

By virtue of an ordinance issued by the Minister of Justice in conjunction with the Minister of the Interior and approved by the Council of Ministers, territorial military courts may be set up for the military personnel and civilian staff of the Ministry of the Interior.

13. There is one transport court for the whole country, which has its seat in Sofia. It has a president and members.

By virtue of an ordinance issued by the Minister of Justice in conjunction with the Minister of the Interior and approved by the Council of Ministers, territorial transport courts may be set up.

14. When hearing cases in open session in their capacity as courts of first instance, the courts are composed as follows:

- a) the people's courts, provincial courts, military courts (Articles 11 and 12) and the transport court - one judge and two judicial assessors;
- b) the Supreme Court - one president, two judges and four judicial assessors.

In preparatory sittings on penal cases the courts are composed as follows: the people's courts and the special courts - one judge and two judicial assessors; and all other courts - three judges.

15. When hearing cases in open session in their capacity as courts of second instance, the provincial courts and the Supreme Court consist of three judges, and the people's courts are composed as indicated in the foregoing article.

16. When hearing cases in camera the courts are composed as follows: the people's courts - one judge; and the other courts - three judges. Where a military court or the transport court have not the required number of judges, judicial assessors are substituted.

In the instances mentioned in the codes of procedure the presidents of courts act by themselves.

17. The general assembly of the appropriate college of the Supreme Court, in the way laid down by the codes of procedure, gives its ruling on issues which in practice raise doubt or are not solved in the same way by all courts.

The rulings thus passed serve as guidance to the courts.

18. The Supreme Court has a Plenum. It comprises all judges of the court. The participation of the Chief Prosecutor of the Republic in the plenum is obligatory.

The Minister of Justice or his deputy, as Assistant Minister, participates in the sittings of the plenum.

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- 3 -

The plenum of the Supreme Court issues general instructions as guidance to the courts in connection with matters of court practice. The decrees issued by it are binding on the courts.

19. Each court has a secretary and other personnel according to its table of personnel.

CHAPTER III

JUDGES AND JUDICIAL ASSESSORS

20. Everyone may become a judge if: -

- a) he is a Bulgarian citizen;
- b) he has taken a degree in law, including the established state examination;
- c) he has successfully completed his 6-month legal apprenticeship with a court or law consultative;
- d) he has not been deprived of some of his rights by virtue of points 1 and 2 of Article 28 of the Penal Code;
- e) he has not been sentenced to deprivation of freedom for general offences, unless amnestied or rehabilitated; and
- f) he has no record of fascist or reactionary activity.

21. The judges and judicial assessors of the people's courts are elected direct by the population of the appropriate court area for a term of three years.

The number of judges and judicial assessors who are to be elected for each people's court is determined by order of the Minister of Justice.

22. If the post of a people's judge falls vacant, the district or area People's Council of Workers' Representatives elects a person to occupy the post until the election of another judge.

The same rule is applied in the case of opening a new people's court.

When the area of the people's court includes inhabited places in two districts, the election under the foregoing paragraphs is made by the district People's Council of Workers' Representatives of the area, the greater part of which is included in the area of the court.

23. When the people's judge is prevented from fulfilling his duties and cannot be replaced by another judge of the same court, one of the members of the provincial court or a judge from an adjacent people's court is temporarily transferred to perform his duties.

24. The judges and judicial assessors of the provincial courts are elected by the appropriate provincial people's councils for a term of five years, whilst those of the Sofia provincial court are elected by joint session of the Sofia Town and Sofia Provincial People's Councils of Workers' Representatives.

25. The judges of the Supreme Court, military courts and transport court are elected by the National Assembly for a term of five years.

The judicial assessors of the Supreme Court are elected by the National Assembly for a term of five years.

The judicial assessors of the military courts and transport court are elected by the Presidium of the National Assembly as follows:

- a) for military courts under Article 11 - for the areas of the courts or military units, persons doing their regular military service being elected /for a term of

- 4 -

for a term of 2 years and those on permanent military service for a term of 5 years;

b) for the military court under Article 12 - for provinces, and units for the same terms as in (a);

c) for the transport court - for the transport areas determined by order of the Minister of Justice in conjunction with the Minister of Transport, for a term of 5 years.

26. The judges and judicial assessors continue to perform their duties even after the expiration of the term for which they have been elected, until those elected at the next election take office.

27. Every elector may become a judicial assessor.

The judicial assessors of military courts under Article 11 are of a military rank senior to that of the defendant, unless the latter are generals, whilst the judicial assessors of the military court under Article 12 are military personnel or members of the civilian staff of the Ministry of the Interior.

28. Judicial assessors have the rights and obligations of judges when performing their duties. During the performance of their duties they retain their labour remuneration, and, if not employees or workers, receive a daily allowance, at a rate determined by the Ministry of Justice.

29. The judicial assessors are summoned to sessions by the people's judge or by the president of the court, up to a maximum of 15 days in a year, according to the cases which are to be heard each month.

A judicial assessor who is prevented from appearing at the court should announce this in time.

30. When taking office every judge takes the following pledge before the general assembly of the court:

"I promise before the people to be loyal to the People's Republic of Bulgaria, to observe and apply strictly the laws, to judge according to my pure conscience and without bigotry, to keep secret the discussion and to be a just judge".

The people's judges take their pledge before the general assembly of the provincial court.

The judicial assessors take the same pledge before the people's judge or president of the court, before starting the performance of their duties.

The judges and judicial assessors of the military courts (Articles 11 and 12) take the foregoing pledge with the following addition:

"I promise also with all my actions to protect the power, discipline and established order in the Bulgarian people's army and the independence of the motherland".

31. Persons who meet the requirements of Article 20, (a), (b), (d), (e) and (f) can be appointed apprentice judges by order of the Minister of Justice.

The serving of the apprenticeship is determined by regulations worked out by the Minister of Justice and approved by the Council of Ministers.

32. The grades and salaries of the personnel of the Ministry of Justice are determined by the tables of personnel.

/ CHAPTER IX

- 5 -

CHAPTER IV

NOTARIES AND BAILIFFS

33. There is a notary's office at the people's courts. The notarial service is carried out by a notary, or, where there is no notary or when the notary is prevented from performing his duties, by the people's judge.

The notaries are appointed by the Minister of Justice from the persons who meet the requirements of Article 20.

34. In any community where there is no people's court, one of the members of the Executive Committee of the People's Council of Workers' Representatives, chosen by the same committee, performs the following notarial duties: -

- a) attests the signatures and date of contracts, powers of attorney and other documents, and
- b) attests the correctness of copies of all documents.

35. There is a bailiff at the people's court to whom is entrusted the execution of court and other acts in accordance with the appropriate laws.

The areas of bailiffs are determined by order of the Minister of Justice.

The bailiffs are appointed by the Minister of Justice from the persons who meet the requirements of Article 20.

CHAPTER V

CONTROL

36. The people's courts account for their activities to the electorate; the provincial courts to the organ which has elected them; and the Supreme Court and the special courts to the Presidium of the National Assembly.

37. The Minister of Justice exercises control over the activity of the courts personally, through the inspectorate or through the presidents of the courts. He may suggest the recall of judges.

38. Judicial control is exercised through the hearing of appeals against the judgements of the lower courts.

Supreme judicial control over the courts is exercised by the Supreme Court of the People's Republic. This court also exercises control over the examination of the proposals of the Chief Prosecutor of the People's Republic and of the President of the Supreme Court for revision of court judgements and special jurisdictions which have already entered into legal force.

39. The provincial courts exercise judicial control over the activity of the people's courts by hearing appeals against sentences and decisions passed by them, and exercise administrative control through the president of the court.

40. When exercising control under the foregoing articles the Minister of Justice and the courts warn the judges of the mistakes they have noticed and which the judges have allowed to take place, or initiate disciplinary proceedings against them.

41. Disciplinary punishments are: caution, reprimand and severe reprimand.

/ In the cases under

- 6 -

In the cases under Article 46 the disciplinary authority suggests through the Minister of Justice that the judge be recalled.

42. Disciplinary punishments are imposed by the Supreme Court, penal department, or when the offender is a military judge, by the military college of the same court. The indictment is made by the prosecutor.

43. Actions for disciplinary violations expire within one year of their commission.

44. If no new disciplinary proceedings have been started against the judge within one year after the imposition of a disciplinary punishment, the disciplinary punishment is considered as deleted. This is not applicable to the case of recall.

45. Other court personnel are punished disciplinary for violation of labour discipline in accordance with the Labour Code or the Disciplinary Statute of the people's army.

CHAPTER VI

RECALL, REMOVAL AND RESIGNATION

46. The people's judges may be recalled by the appropriate district or area People's Council of Workers' Representatives, and all other judges by the organ which has elected them.

Article 22, paragraph 3, is applied when appropriate in such cases.

When the National Assembly is not in session, the judge is recalled by the Presidium of the National Assembly.

47. A judge may be recalled:

- a) when he does not observe the provisions of the Constitution and the laws of the country;
- b) when he is unfit to perform his duties;
- c) when by his acts he damages the prestige of justice or the public interest;
- d) when one or more of the obstacles under Article 20, (a), (d), (e) and (f) have arisen.

Before making a pronouncement on the recall the appropriate organs make inquiries and consult the opinion of the Ministry of Justice, and the judge whose recall is demanded should also be heard.

A judge is relieved of his duties by decision of the organ which is competent to recall him on the proposal of the Minister of Justice when this is made necessary by budgetary reduction of the personnel.

48. A judge may be removed from office when penal proceedings have been started against him for a general offence.

The removal is ordered by the Minister of Justice at the request of the Chief Prosecutor of the People's Republic. The organ competent to recall the judge is informed of this order.

49. Judges may resign at their own request with the permission of the Minister of Justice if there are serious reasons for that, but only after obtaining the consent of the Executive Committee of the People's Council which is competent to recall the judge, or the Presidium of the National Assembly; in the cases of military judges, the consent of the Minister of National Defence or the Minister of the Interior is required.

/ TEMPORARY PROVISIONS

- 7 -

TEMPORARY PROVISIONS

1. Judges and judicial assessors in all courts who are in office at the moment of the entry of this law into force and who have not been elected in the manner prescribed by this law, continue to hold their office until the election of and assumption of office by the new judges and judicial assessors.

Until the elections of people's judges and judicial assessors for the people's courts are held in accordance with this law, they are to be elected in the old way - by the appropriate People's Councils.

Supernumerary members of the provincial courts who are in office at the moment of entry of this law into force continue to hold office until the coming into force of the budget for 1953.

Until the coming into force of the budget for the same year the execution of court and other acts is carried out by the people's judge in the absence of bailiffs.

2. The existing courts continue to act until the courts are set up in the manner prescribed by the provisions of this law.

3. The Minister of Justice will determine by order published in the "Izvestia of the Presidium of the National Assembly" the data from which Article 14 (a) is to be applied for civil suits and for penal suits for crimes for which the law provides the punishment of deprivation of freedom up to one year or some lighter punishment.

4. The provisions now in force for exemption from passing a state examination remain in force.

5. Persons who have graduated in law without passing their state examination in the University in accordance with the Regulations for the state examination of persons graduated from universities ("State Gazette" No. 231 of 1950) must pass a state examination at the Ministry of Justice in the old fashion by the end of 1953 at the latest. Persons who cannot comply with this time-limit owing to doing their military or labour service must pass the state examination at the latest one year after completing their service.

6. This law revokes:

1. The Law for the organisation of people's courts of 1948.
2. The Ukase for local people's courts of 1948.
3. The law for bailiffs of 1948.
4. The law for notaries of 1948.
5. Articles 1-15, 21 (a) - 33 of the Law for Military Procedure of 1949 and Articles 34-59 of the same law except those provisions in them which refer to military prosecutors and investigators.
6. Articles 1-8, 15 and 22-25 of the Law for the transport court and prosecutor's office of 1950.
7. All provisions in other laws which are at variance with it.

Everywhere in the laws the words "district court" are replaced by the words "people's court", and "district judge" by "people's judge".

Changes in other laws.

I. In the law for persons and the family.

/ 7. In Article 96 the

- 6 -

7. In Article 95 the words "the guardian's court - the local people's court, or where there is no such court, the district court" are replaced by the words "the organ of guardianship". A new second paragraph is added to the same article:

"The duties of the organ of guardianship are performed by a member of the Executive Committee of the municipal or Area People's Council of Workers' Representatives, chosen by the same committee".

The old second paragraph of Article 96 becomes the third paragraph.

8. The words "guardian's court" are replaced with the words "organ of guardianship" throughout the law.

II. In the Code of Penal Procedure.

9. Article 335 becomes paragraph two of Article 336 and a new Article 335 is created worded as follows:

"335. The following general offences come under the jurisdiction of the transport court:

a) those committed by workers and employees of the Ministry of Transport and its units in connection with or in the course of carrying out of their duties, or those committed by them by making use of their official position or service uniform;

b) those connected with the work and safety of transport or with the labour discipline of the workers and employees of the Ministry of Transport and its units;

c) those connected with tramway and motor-car transport vehicles except with those of the Ministry of National Defence and the Ministry of the Interior.

The crimes under Chapter I of the Penal Code do not come under the jurisdiction of the transport court".

III. In the Code of Civil Procedure.

10. A new Article 473 (a) is created after Article 473: -

"Notarial services involving attesting the date, contents and signatures of private documents, attesting the correctness of copies and excerpts from documents, submitted by Bulgarian citizens may be carried out abroad by Bulgarian diplomatic and consular representatives".

The implementation of this Ukase is entrusted to the Minister of Justice.

This Ukase is stamped with the State Seal.

Sofia, 6th November 1952.

President of the Presidium of the National Assembly : G. Danianov.
Secretary of the Presidium of the National Assembly : M. Minchev.

IZVESTIA of the Presidium
of the National Assembly
7th November 1952 No. 92.

LAW FOR THE PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE IN THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

CHAPTER I

TASKS OF THE PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

1. The Prosecutor's Office of the People's Republic of Bulgaria has the task of guarding and defending the people's democratic state and public order, established by the Constitution.

2. For the fulfilment of this task the Prosecutor's Office: -

a) ensures, by its control, the strict observance of the laws by all Government organs, officials and citizens and by all state institutions, enterprises and public organisations;

b) initiates penal proceedings for every criminal act against the People's Republic and socialist property and for any other crime; supports the indictment; gives its opinion on penal suits in the courts and issues protests against incorrect sentences and decisions;

c) exercises control over the justification of detention and orders the release of those incorrectly detained;

d) sees to the fulfilment of the sentences and to proper serving of punishments;

e) participates in civil suits in cases determined by the law and when this is required for defending state and public interests;

f) orders the restoration of an earlier state of affairs, when they have been modified arbitrarily; and

g) exercises control over the decrees, decisions, orders and instructions of the Ministries, local authorities and other institutions, and when they are at variance with the Constitution, laws and Government decrees, it protests to the appropriate organs, indicating measures for the removal of violations.

3. In connection with the performance of their functions prosecutors have the right to demand the necessary information and material from all Government organs, officials, citizens and from all state institutions, enterprises and public organisations.

CHAPTER II

ORGANISATION OF THE PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

4. The Prosecutor's Office is one and centralised.

The Chief Prosecutor's Office includes the special prosecutor's offices: the prosecutor's office of the people's army, the military prosecutor's office at the Ministry of the Interior and the transport prosecutor's office.

The prosecutor's office is headed by the Chief Prosecutor of the People's Republic of Bulgaria.

The Chief Prosecutor of the People's Republic of Bulgaria is elected for a term of five years by the National Assembly and is subordinate only to it. Every year he gives an account of the activities of the prosecutor's office to the Presidium of the National Assembly.

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5. In the performance of their duties prosecutors act only on the strength of the law. They are independent of the local organs of authority and administration and are subordinate only to the Chief Prosecutor of the People's Republic.

Every prosecutor is also subordinate to his superior prosecutor.

6. Every prosecutor may suspend or cancel the orders of his subordinate prosecutors, and the Chief Prosecutor may suspend or cancel the orders of all prosecutors. The Chief Prosecutor of the People's Republic cancels the orders of the prosecutors from the special prosecutor's offices through the leading prosecutors of these prosecutor's offices.

7. Every prosecutor may instruct the prosecutor whose rank is immediately below his to replace him temporarily in the performance of his duties.

8. The relations between prosecutors and investigators are determined by the rules of the Code of Penal Procedure.

9. The prosecutor's office consists of the Chief Prosecutor's Office, provincial, district, town and area prosecutor's offices.

Town prosecutor's offices are set up by order of the Chief Prosecutor of the People's Republic.

The seats and areas of the prosecutors and investigators of the special prosecutor's offices are determined by order of the Chief Prosecutor of the People's Republic in conjunction with the appropriate Minister.

10. The prosecutor's office of the people's army has provincial prosecutor's offices and prosecutor's offices at the army groups and units.

The number of prosecutors and investigators in the prosecutor's office of the people's army is determined by the establishment table of the staff of the Ministry of National Defence.

11. The military prosecutor's office at the Ministry of the Interior acts throughout the country. Territorial prosecutor's offices or those attached to separate units of the Ministry of the Interior may be set up by decision of the Chief Prosecutor in agreement with the Minister of the Interior.

The number of the prosecutors and investigators of the military prosecutor's office at the Ministry of the Interior is determined by the establishment table of the staff of the same Ministry.

12. The transport prosecutor's office may have territorial prosecutor's offices.

The number of its prosecutors and investigators is determined by the budget of the prosecutor's office.

CHAPTER III

APPOINTMENT, DISMISSAL AND SENIORITY

13. All prosecutors and investigators are appointed and dismissed by the Chief Prosecutor of the People's Republic.

The prosecutors and investigators of the special prosecutor's offices are appointed and dismissed by the Chief Prosecutor of the People's Republic in conjunction with the appropriate Minister.

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14. Persons who meet the following requirements may be appointed as prosecutors and investigators: -

- a) if they are Bulgarian citizens;
- b) if they have graduated in law and have passed their state examination;
- c) if they have successfully served the required apprenticeship at a prosecutor's office, court or law consultative;
- d) if they have not been deprived of the rights under Article 28, points 1 and 2, of the Penal Code;
- e) if they have not been sentenced to deprivation of freedom for general offences, unless amnestied or rehabilitated; and
- f) if they have no record of fascist or reactionary activities.

15. Prosecutors and investigators take the following pledge when taking office: -

"I promise in the name of the people to be loyal to the People's Republic of Bulgaria, to protect the state and public order established by the Constitution, to see to the observance of the law in the country and conscientiously perform my duties".

The Chief Prosecutor of the People's Republic takes this pledge before the Presidium of the National Assembly, and all other prosecutors and investigators before their senior prosecutor.

16. The following ranks are established for prosecutors and investigators: -

1. Deputy of the Chief Prosecutor;
2. Assistants of the Chief Prosecutor, heads of departments at the Chief Prosecutor's Office.
3. Prosecutors at the Chief Prosecutor's Office.
4. Deputy prosecutors at the Chief Prosecutor's Office and investigators for important cases at the Chief Prosecutor's Office.
5. Provincial prosecutors.
6. Deputy provincial prosecutors and investigators at the provincial prosecutor's offices.
7. District prosecutors, and
8. Deputy district prosecutors and investigators at the district prosecutor's offices.

17. The provincial prosecutor in Sofia has the rank of a prosecutor at the Chief Prosecutor's Office.

The deputy provincial prosecutors in Sofia and the investigators at the provincial prosecutor's office in Sofia have the rank of provincial prosecutor.

The district and area prosecutors in Sofia have the rank of deputy provincial prosecutor, and the deputy district prosecutors, deputy area prosecutors in Sofia and the investigators at the district and area prosecutor's offices in Sofia have the rank of district prosecutor.

18. The prosecutor of the people's army, the military prosecutor at the Ministry of the Interior and the transport prosecutor are assistants of the Chief Prosecutor of the People's Republic. The ranks of the other prosecutors and investigators at the above-mentioned prosecutor's offices are determined by order of the Chief Prosecutor of the People's Republic in conjunction with the appropriate Minister.

19. Persons who have at least two years' service in an immediately lower rank are appointed as district prosecutors or as prosecutors of the same rank, as well as deputy provincial prosecutors or prosecutors of the same rank.

Persons who have at least three years' service in an immediately lower rank are appointed as provincial prosecutors or as prosecutors of the same rank.

/ Persons whose length of

- 4 -

Persons whose length of service is as in the previous paragraph and who have particularly distinguished themselves in their work are appointed to senior posts.

20. In exceptional cases, where an official has shown particular merit and distinction in work, the Chief Prosecutor of the People's Republic may promote him to a post not more than two ranks higher, without observing the requirements for length of previous service.

21. Persons who meet the requirements of Article 14 and have served elsewhere may be appointed, if the Chief Prosecutor of the People's Republic deems it suitable, as prosecutors and investigators with a rank corresponding to the length of past service in another office.

22. Provincial prosecutors and those of similar rank may be promoted without transfer to another post after the required length of service, up to the rank of prosecutors at the Chief Prosecutor's Office, and all other prosecutors and investigators up to the rank of provincial prosecutor.

23. All personnel in the prosecutor's offices are appointed and dismissed by the appropriate prosecutor.

CHAPTER IV

TEMPORARY PROVISIONS

24. Persons who, according to the present law, are exempt from state examination may be appointed as prosecutors and investigators without passing such an examination.

25. Prosecutors and investigators who are in office when this law comes into force retain the rank which they have reached.

26. Prosecutors and investigators who are in office when this law comes into force retain their post until the working out of new personnel establishment tables.

27. This law revokes:

- a) the Law for the Prosecutor's Office;
- b) Articles 16-23, 34-39, 41-47, 49-52, 57 and 59 of the Law of Military Procedure; and
- c) Articles 9-14 of the Law for transport court and prosecutor's office.

The implementation of this Ussr is entrusted to the President of the Council of Ministers.

This Ussr is stamped with the State Seal.

Sofia, 6th November.

President of the Presidium of the National Assembly: G. Damianov.
Secretary of the Presidium of the National Assembly: M. Minchev.